

RESOLUTION # 11

ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

1 **WHEREAS**, we support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative
2 efforts in developing a comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock
3 farms that considers and incorporates the environmental, alternative-energy and
4 economic aspects of animal waste; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Department recognizes animal waste as a nutrient-rich resource
6 and continues to explore alternative uses of animal waste, including bio-gas production,
7 and allowing for the productive reuse of manure as a means to reduce the use of
8 synthetic fertilizers, which reduces hauling costs and benefits the environment; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Department works in conjunction with its conservation partners
10 to implement demonstration projects, such as the one that installed best management
11 practices at the Equine Science Center, to provide hands-on training and research
12 facilities to educate livestock owners on the design, implementation and construction of
13 cost-effective environmental management practices and facilities to minimize water
14 quality impacts and provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such
15 practices and facilities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture continues to identify ways to assist
17 livestock farmers with self-certified and high-density plan development and
18 implementation to assure that the animal waste management program is effective,
19 practical, affordable and feasible; and

20 **WHEREAS**, to date the Department has received declaration pages from 619
21 animal operations confirming that a self-certified AWMP has been developed and
22 implemented on their farms, and several high-density AWMPs were developed and

23 reviewed by conservation professionals to ensure compliance with the NRCS-Field
24 Office Technical Guide; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Department has progressed through the design-and-build phase
26 of an anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland, Cumberland
27 County, and is moving into the operation phase to determine the effectiveness and
28 efficiency of operating a centrally located digester that can accept manure, as well as
29 food waste from food processors, in order to produce biogas for use in generating
30 electricity.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100th
32 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5,
33 2015, support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's cooperative efforts in
34 developing a comprehensive animal waste management program for livestock farms.

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge livestock operators to file animal
36 waste management plans with the Department in order to comply with state regulations
37 regarding the need for such plans.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to
39 recognize animal waste as a resource and continue to explore alternative uses of animal
40 waste including bio-gas production that could help meet the State Energy Master Plan
41 goals, allow for the productive reuse of manure, reduce hauling costs and benefit the
42 environment.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to work
44 in conjunction with conservation partners to: implement demonstration projects, such as
45 the one that installed best management practices at the Equine Science Center; to
46 provide hands-on training and research facilities to educate livestock owners on the
47 design and construction of cost-effective environmental management practices and
48 facilities; to identify opportunities for implementation incentives for facilities to minimize

49 water quality impacts (such as in the eight-year preservation program and the Farm Bill);
50 and provide an opportunity for the evaluation of the effectiveness of such practices.

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the New Jersey
52 Congressional Delegation to support sufficient funding for NRCS and other federal-level
53 cost-share programs that help New Jersey farmers adequately address animal-waste
54 issues.

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the Rutgers Cooperative
56 Extension's Compost Certification Program as called for in the NJDEP Solid Waste
57 Management regulations and to monitor program compliance.

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to work with the
59 Equine Science Center and other appropriate agencies to provide outreach to equine
60 owners through enhancements to their websites, newsletters and special meetings and
61 provide information on training sessions, regulation timeframes and other related
62 information regarding rule implementation.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the amendments made to the
64 NJDEP Solid Waste Management regulations that exempt farmers from permitting
65 requirements when composting specific feedstocks at certain limits, as these
66 amendments create a first step toward ultimately establishing an Ag Composting
67 Program under the Department of Agriculture; and we also support the Department's
68 efforts in drafting a document outlining how to bury or compost normal livestock
69 mortalities and butcher waste on farms.

70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue to
71 identify ways to reach out to and assist livestock farmers with self-certified and high-
72 density plan development and implementation to assure that animal waste management
73 is practical, affordable and feasible.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the ongoing creation and
75 operation of the centrally located anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in
76 Vineland, Cumberland County, to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of
77 operating such a facility that can accept manure and food waste from numerous
78 locations to produce biogas for use in generating electricity.